

**Claims as Amended:**

1. (Previously Presented) A membrane eraser used for ophthalmic surgery, comprising:
  - a grip portion;
  - a rod shaped body having opposite first and second ends, said first end being attached to said grip portion, said second end extending away from said grip portion;
  - an elastic body having opposite proximal and distal ends and a hollow interior, said hollow interior at said proximal end receiving said second end of said rod shaped body, said distal end having a tapered tip extending away from said rod shaped body; and
  - a plurality of hard, fine-grains fixed on said tapered tip of said elastic body, said fine-grains being located in a range from an end portion of said tip, said fine-grains being configured for removal of membrane tissue on a retina of an individual.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented) A membrane eraser according to claim 1, wherein said hard fine-grains comprise grains having a range in diameter from 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 80  $\mu\text{m}$ .
4. (Previously Presented) A membrane eraser according to claim 1, wherein said hard fine-grains comprise diamond particles.
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Cancelled).

7. (Original) A membrane eraser according to claim 1, wherein said grains are located in a range of 0.5 mm to 3.0 mm from said distal end of the elastic body.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) An ophthalmic treatment tool comprising:  
a grip;  
a rod shaped body having opposite first and second ends, said first end attached to said grip, said second end extending away from said grip;  
an elastic body attached to said second end of said rod shaped body, said elastic body having a tapered tip extending away from said rod shaped body;  
a plurality of hard, fine-grains fixed on said tapered tip of said elastic body, said fine-grains being located in a range from an end portion of said tip; and  
said elastic body has a general cylindrical shape with opposite proximal and distal ends and a hollow interior, said proximal end is fitted onto said second end of said rod shaped body, said distal end is cut on a bevel forming said tapered tip.

10. (Previously Presented) The ophthalmic treatment tool according to claim 9 wherein said rod shaped body has a slender line portion at said second end, the elastic body is fitted on said slender line portion.

11. (Original) The ophthalmic treatment tool according to claim 10 wherein said slender line portion is formed in an angle relative to said rod shaped body.

12. (Previously Presented) An ophthalmic treatment tool comprising:  
a grip;

a rod shaped body having opposite first and second ends, said first end attached to said grip, said second end having a slender line portion extending away from said grip;

an elastic body having a hollow, generally tubular shape with opposite proximal and distal ends, said proximal end having an opening receiving said slender line portion therein, said second end being spaced from said slender line portion and extending to a distal end having a taper; and

a plurality of hard, fine-grains fixed on said distal end of said elastic body, said fine-grains being located in a range on said distal end portion.

13. (Original) The ophthalmic treatment tool according to 12 wherein said slender line portion is formed in an angle relative to said rod shaped body.

14. (Original) The ophthalmic treatment tool according to claim 12 wherein said fine-grains are located in a range of 0.5 mm to 3.0 mm from a distal end of the elastic body.

15. (Original) The ophthalmic treatment tool according to claim 12 wherein said fine-grains have a range in diameter from 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 80  $\mu\text{m}$ .

16-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented) An ophthalmic membrane eraser comprising:

a tool having a length with opposite proximal and distal ends, a rigid portion of the tool adjacent the tool proximal end and an elastic, flexible tapered tip portion of the tool adjacent the tool distal end, the elastic portion of the tool is attached to the rigid portion of the tool and projects from the rigid portion of the tool for a portion of the length of the tool to the tool distal end, the elastic portion of the tool has a tapered tip at the tool distal end; and

a plurality of hard, fine-grains fixed to the elastic portion of tool, the fine-grains are fixed to the elastic portion of the tool only located in a range from an end portion of the tapered tip and are absent from a remainder of the elastic portion of the tool so as not to detract from the flexibility of the remainder of the elastic portion of the tool.

22. (Previously Presented) The membrane eraser of claim 21, wherein:

the elastic portion of the tool is flexible along the portion of the length of the tool that the elastic portion projects from the rigid portion.

23. (Previously Presented) The membrane eraser of claim 21, wherein:

the plurality of hard, fine-grains are fixed to only an exterior surface of the elastic portion of the tool adjacent the distal end of the tool.

24. (Previously Presented) The membrane eraser of claim 21, wherein:

the rigid portion of the tool includes a grip at the tool proximal end and a rod-shaped body attached to the grip and projecting from the grip.

25. (Previously Presented) The membrane eraser of claim 21, wherein:

the elastic portion has a beveled surface adjacent the distal end of the tool and the hard, fine-grains are fixed only on the beveled surface.

26. (Previously Presented) A membrane eraser used for ophthalmic surgery, comprising:

a grip portion;

a rod shaped body attached to one end of said grip portion;

an elastic body fitted along a direction toward a front end of said rod shaped body to the front end side thereof and having a tapered front tip; and,

a plurality of hard, inorganic fine-grains fixed on said tapered front tip of said elastic body wherein said grains are located in a range from an end portion of said front tip for removal of membrane tissue on a retina of an individual.

27. (Previously Presented) A membrane eraser according to Claim 26, wherein said fine-grains are located in a range of 0.5 mm to 3.0 mm.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A membrane eraser according to Claim 27, wherein~~  
A membrane eraser used for ophthalmic surgery, comprising:  
a grip portion;  
a rod shaped body attached to one end of said grip portion;  
an elastic body fitted along a direction toward a front end of sad rod shaped body to the  
front end side thereof and having a tapered front tip;  
a plurality of hard, inorganic fine-grains fixed on said tapered front tip of said elastic body  
wherein said grains are located in a range from an end portion of said front tip for removal of  
membrane tissue on a retina of an individual;  
said fine-grains are located in a range of 0.5 mm to 3.0 mm; and,  
said tapered front tip is hollow.

29. (Currently Amended) A membrane eraser according to Claim 26 28, wherein said elastic body comprises silicone rubber.

30. (Currently Amended) A membrane eraser according to Claim 26 28, wherein said hard inorganic fine-grains comprise grains having a range in diameter from 3 to 80  $\mu\text{m}$ .

31. (Currently Amended) A membrane eraser according to Claim 26 28, wherein said hard inorganic fine-grains comprise diamond particles.

32. (Currently Amended) A membrane eraser according to Claim 26 28, wherein said rod shaped body comprises titanium.

33. (Currently Amended). A membrane eraser according to Claim 26 28, wherein said hard inorganic fine-grains are fixed by a silicone base adhesive to said front tip.